

In the Claims:

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1. (Currently Amended) A method for sharing costs associated with toll calls comprising:
receiving a request for toll sharing from a call initiator ordinarily responsible for paying a toll associated with a toll call, the request originating in a telephony device;
receiving proposed toll sharing parameters from the call initiator;
initiating the toll call to a call recipient;
informing the call recipient of the proposed toll sharing parameters;
receiving a decision from the call recipient as to whether the toll sharing parameters are accepted; and
if the toll sharing parameters are accepted, apportioning the costs for the toll call between the call initiator and the call recipient based on the toll sharing parameters.
2. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 1 further comprising generating billing information for each call participant including apportioned charges for the toll call.
3. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 1 wherein receiving proposed toll sharing parameters further includes receiving information sufficient to define the toll sharing parameters for the toll calls between the call initiator and the call recipient and defining the toll sharing parameters to apply to the toll calls between the call initiator and the call recipient.
4. (Canceled).
5. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 1 further comprising determining if the toll call is between a call initiator and a call recipient for which toll sharing parameters are pre-defined.
6. (Canceled).
7. (Original) The method of claim 3 wherein the toll sharing parameters are defined to apply to any toll calls occurring after the toll sharing parameters are defined.
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8. (Original) The method of claim 3 wherein the toll sharing parameters are defined to apply to any toll calls occurring within a defined period of time.
9. (Original) The method of claim 8 wherein the toll sharing parameters are defined to apply to any toll calls occurring on or within at least one of the group consisting of time of day, day, week, month, and year.
10. (Original) The method of claim 3 wherein the toll sharing parameters are defined to apply to at least one portion of the toll call.
11. (Original) The method of claim 3 wherein the toll sharing parameters are defined to apply to at least one portion of the toll call having a defined length.
12. (Canceled).
13. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 1 further comprising facilitating interaction with the call originator to provide the toll sharing parameters for the toll call.
14. (Canceled).
15. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 1 wherein the request is a code dialed by the call originator configured to initiate cost sharing for the toll call.
16. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 1 wherein the request is made via operator assistance to initiate cost sharing for the toll call.
17. (Canceled).
18. (Previously Presented) A system for sharing costs associated with toll calls comprising a control system adapted to:

receive a request for toll sharing from a call initiator ordinarily responsible for paying a toll associated with a toll call;

receive proposed toll sharing parameters from the call initiator;

initiate the toll call to a call recipient;

inform the call recipient of the proposed toll sharing parameters;

receive a decision from the call recipient as to whether the toll sharing parameters are accepted; and

provide toll sharing parameters for a toll call between parties;

receive toll call indicia sufficient to determine costs associated with a toll call; and

if the toll sharing parameters are accepted, apportion the costs for the toll call between the call initiator and call recipient based on the toll sharing parameters.

19. (Previously Presented) The system of claim 18 wherein said control system is further adapted to generate billing information for each call participant including apportioned charges for the toll call.

20. (Previously Presented) The system of claim 18 wherein said control system is further adapted to receive information sufficient to define the toll sharing parameters for the toll calls between the call initiator and the call recipient and define the toll sharing parameters to apply to the toll calls between the call initiator and the call recipient.

21. (Canceled).

22. (Currently Amended) The system of claim 18 wherein said control system is further adapted to determine if the toll call is between the call initiator and the call recipient for which toll sharing parameters are pre-defined.

23. (Canceled).

24. (Original) The system of claim 20 wherein the toll sharing parameters are defined to apply to any toll calls occurring after the toll sharing parameters are defined.

25. (Original) The system of claim 20 wherein the toll sharing parameters are defined to apply to any toll calls occurring within a defined period of time.
26. (Original) The system of claim 25 wherein the toll sharing parameters are defined to apply to any toll calls occurring on or within at least one of the group consisting of time of day, day, week, month, and year.
27. (Original) The system of claim 20 wherein the toll sharing parameters are defined to apply to at least one portion of the toll call.
28. (Original) The system of claim 20 wherein the toll sharing parameters are defined to apply to at least one portion of the toll call having a defined length.
29. (Canceled).
30. (Previously Presented) The system of claim 18 wherein said control system is further adapted to facilitate interaction with the call originator to provide the toll sharing parameters for the toll call.
31. (Canceled).
32. (Previously Presented) The system of claim 18 wherein the request is a code dialed by the call originator configured to initiate cost sharing for the toll call.
33. (Previously Presented) The system of claim 18 wherein the request is made via operator assistance to initiate cost sharing for the toll call.
34. (Canceled).

35. (Previously Presented) A computer readable medium including software for sharing costs associated with toll calls, the software comprising computer instructions to:

receive a request for toll sharing from a call initiator ordinarily responsible for paying a toll associated with a toll call;

receive proposed toll sharing parameters from the call initiator;

initiate the toll call to a call recipient;

inform the call recipient of the proposed toll sharing parameters;

receive a decision from the call recipient as to whether the toll sharing parameters are accepted;

apportion the costs for the toll call between the call initiator and call recipient based on the toll sharing parameters.

36. (Previously Presented) The computer readable medium of claim 35 further comprising instructions to generate billing information for each call participant including apportioned charges for the toll call.

37. (Previously Presented) The computer readable medium of claim 35 wherein the instructions to receive proposed toll sharing parameters further comprises instructions to receive information sufficient to define the toll sharing parameters for toll calls between the call initiator and the call recipient and define the toll sharing parameters to apply to toll calls between the call initiator and the call recipient.

38. (Canceled).

39. (Previously Presented) The computer readable medium of claim 35 further comprising instructions to determine if the toll call is between the call initiator and the call recipient for which the toll sharing parameters are pre-defined.

40. (Canceled).

41. (Original) The computer readable medium of claim 37 wherein the toll sharing parameters are defined to apply to any toll calls occurring after the toll sharing parameters are defined.
42. (Original) The computer readable medium of claim 37 wherein the toll sharing parameters are defined to apply to any toll calls occurring within a defined period of time.
43. (Original) The computer readable medium of claim 42 wherein the toll sharing parameters are defined to apply to any toll calls occurring on or within at least one of the group consisting of time of day, day, week, month, and year.
44. (Original) The computer readable medium of claim 37 wherein the toll sharing parameters are defined to apply to at least one portion of the toll call.
45. (Original) The computer readable medium of claim 37 wherein the toll sharing parameters are defined to apply to at least one portion of the toll call having a defined length.
46. (Canceled).
47. (Previously Presented) The computer readable medium of claim 35 further comprising instructions to facilitate interaction with the call originator to provide the toll sharing parameters for the toll call.
48. (Canceled).
49. (Currently Amended) The computer readable medium of claim ~~[[46]]~~ 35 wherein the request is a code dialed by the call originator configured to initiate cost sharing for the toll call.
50. (Currently Amended) The computer readable medium of claim ~~[[46]]~~ 35 wherein the request is made via operator assistance to initiate cost sharing for the toll call.

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51-53. (Canceled).

54. (New) The method of claim 1 wherein apportioning the costs for the toll call between the call initiator and the call recipient comprises both the call initiator and the call recipient bearing a non-zero portion of the costs of the toll call.

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55. (New) The system of claim 18 wherein the control system adapted to apportion the costs for the toll call between the call initiator and the call recipient comprises the control system apportioning the costs such that both the call initiator and the call recipient bear a non-zero portion of the costs of the toll call.

56. (New) The computer readable medium of claim 35 wherein the computer instructions to apportion the costs for the toll call between the call initiator and the call recipient comprises instructions to apportion the costs such that both the call initiator and the call recipient bear a non-zero portion of the costs of the toll call.